The Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd.,
COIMBATORE.

HOSTEL DAY

Speech by

Mr. G. D. NAIDU

AT

ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY

WITH

Introduction by

Dr. S. KRISHNAMURTHI, M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.
Head of Agriculture Section and Warden

AND

Lt. Col. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI
Vice-Chancellor of the Annamalai University.

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At the request of the Arts and Science Hostel Secretary of the Annamalai University, Mr. G. D. Naidu accepted the invitation to address the students on the Hostel Day Celebrations on 12—2—'56. A great crowd of students and visitors were ready to hear his speech. After an introduction by the Warden of the Hostel Dr. S. Krishnamurthi and the Vice-Chancellor Lt. Col. T.M. Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. G. D. Naidu delivered his speech.

After the distribution of prizes by Mr. G. D. Naidu, the meeting came to an end.

A group photo of the Members of the Hostel Day Celebrations was also taken.

Speech by

Mr. G. D. NAIDU

My dear young friends,

I am wondering how and for what purpose my coming here will be of any use to you. I am not educated in any school or colleges as you young people who had got this opportunity. Therefore, I am not an expert in English language and I am not able to give any lectures as you wish or as desired by the present day youngsters. You have got experts to teach you in each and every subject taken by you for study. There are excellent professors in engineering, Mathematics, Agriculture, Chemistry and History and Geography including Music. Of course, to watch and to teach you about the health, there are wardens. Then to meet the expenses of your education, there is the Raja of Chettinad, who is ready to satisfy your college needs and your parents and guardians are always ready for your maintenance at your beck and call. Then there is the railway station close by for your transport convenience to pay visits to your parents and others. There are always politicians ready to attract you for their business. To supply papers, pencils, pens, cigarettes, match boxes, toilet things, medicines and other

things, there are shops in the corners and in the centres. There are parks, tennis courts, fine halls, laboratories and libraries to spend your morning, evening and late night hours. There are professors, lecturers, demonstrators and other friends if you want to spend your time in discussions. You have got well built rooms for your living. You have got kitchens for preparing the food and buildings for serving the same. There are good many staff to look after this boarding business under your management. What else do you want? – particularly for a man like me who had never seen or enjoyed such facilities in his young age as you are enjoying now.

Before I say anything, I want to know – please tell me – what material speech or advice you expect from me. There may be many groups, who want to know several things, which they have not seen or experienced. No man can be an expert in everything. Hence it is natural that you wish to know something from me. Even the best expert in one subject, generally wants to know some other thing in the worldly affairs from others or he may desire to learn more and more efficiently in the same subject, in which he has got a special interest. At times, he may ask others: "What would be the best way he should adapt and what would be the obstacles that

he should avoid on the way in his day-to-day life". Generally neither youngsters nor old people like the last one. Any one may like to know the better ways and means to live. Unfortunately there are no better ways and means shining in the world unless they are freed from defects or obstaclcs, however small they may be.

Now, in occasions like this, no one will like to say or hear about any defects that are in existence. My principle from my young age was this: If I take up any work, the first thing I did was to remove the defects and obstacles. Not only did I remove them, but also I took care to see that such things did not grow there in any manner. I have no hesitation to give you my experience in any of these things. Do you want to remove such defects or obstacles you have with you or followed by you without your knowing them? If you do not want to hear such harsh things at this pleasant function, then you may put me questions, for which I will give my answers and experiences.

Before you put any questions, I want to say briefly something I noted during my recent visit here. Before any one starts any work, either for learning or earning or any other practical work, he must have perfect health. Health means not only

bodily health, but also mental health. Without sound mind, body cannot be healthy and without healthy body, mind also cannot be healthy. Hence, body and mind must be kept and trained in a healthy way. If some injection or chloroform is given to the body, the mental stability is changed. In the same way, if any news is got by hearing suddenly the news of the death of one's most loving friend or the nearest relation, the mind becomes unbalanced with unbearable shock. Then automatically, the body also sweats, swoons and falls down with much weakness. It seems it is impossible to separate the mind from the body and the body from the mind. The combination is so perfect only with small exceptions, in very few people, who can overcome such combination.

For instance, medicines can cure the diseases or replace the deficiency of a part in the body. Some medicines can stop the mental activities without immediate action on the body. If both the medicine and confidence are combined, the result of cure will be 100 per cent more and the time for cure will be half the usual duration. I know personally a patient with one year old chronic case cured by goat dung – another stomach disorder case cured by ordinary soda mint and a third case of heart

pain cured by mere change of diet. All these successes were due to the help of confidence. I can't say whether mind has got power over the body or the body has got power over the mind. In my experience if we have got the power of mind over the body, we will have success in every undertaking. When a scorpion stings a man, and if I put my hand on the spot where it has bitten, he is cured of the pain within 5 to 15 minutes. I do not know if there is any power in my body that goes to the sufferer and works out in the nerves to expel the poison or extinguish the action of the poison. There is one Station Master, to whom if a telegram is sent informing him of the scorpion stings, the pain is relieved. From all these, it is clear that only the confidence in the man cures the pain. I know of another instance, where head-aches are cured by mere application of water. This is also due to confidence. Recently I have cured 3 or 4 cases, which were considered to be uncurable by the existing other medicines, by a medicine combined with confidence. Perhaps, as you are all young science students, you know how the medicine, mind and confidence act upon men so quickly. Medicine is a form of a particular food condensed. Injection is still more condensed. In the same way, the food we take in ordinary course can change

the state of our body. Likewise the environment will change the mind. But this will be a slow but a steady process.

Now, the aim in your life time is to get success in all your activities. Is it not? For that you must have pure substantial, a little, or less quantity of food needed at that time and your outside activities and environments also must be uncontaminated with bad things. Otherwise they will weaken your mind and body. For instance suppose you are taking a pound of rice three times in a day, the same quantity, if you take in two times, that means an over-load to your stomach. This little excess quantity does much harm to your liver, stomach and other organs. Not only it harms, but also this over work to the organs exhausts more than 50 per cent of the energy instead of conserving so much energy. You have to inhale pure oxygen for the whole of 24 hours in the day and night, to have pure blood always in your system. In half of the time during day or Quarter of the time, if you inhale bad air, or smoke, your blood becomes impure. Not only this, but irritation occurs from the nose to the bottom of the lungs.

If you take always very hot food with more chillies, tamarind and spices or if you take a food with dust, dirt and stones or if

you always have in your mind something of your quarrels or reading or thinking of bad matters, do you know how your mind and body will be? Have you observed why in some institutions students pass more credentially and in more numbers and why in some institutions there are less numbers? Why some students need more time or days for rest in the name of recreation or leave? You are not very young children. Please think. How is your kitchen? How is your Dining Hall? How clean are the stuffs made there? How clean are the workers there? How much time you are wasting in various activities, which is draining your energy, instead of conserving them? About wastage of energy, I gave a speech in a colloge two years back, which I condensed from more than 85 files and which were collected in the research for more than 15 years. It reads as follows:

How you are spending your time in the colleges – it reads as follows:

If we take the total time continuously spent in all activities from their 15th year upto 25 years of age, you are spending out of your useful 10 years' time –

For sleep	3 years	4 months	5 days
For meals & tiffin		7 ,,	18 ,,
For being under mirror		7 ,,	18 ,,

Thus you are spending 4 years, 7 months and 11 days. For study you are giving only one year, one month and fifteen days. The balance of 4 years, 3 months and 4 days is being wasted. Even in this one year, 1 month and 15 days intended for your study, I can say about half of this time you do not give your intensive attention to your studies for which you have come to the colleges. In these 10 years, you can reduce the sleep to 2 years and 6 months, for meals etc., you can reduce 6 months, under the mirror etc., you can reduce 3 months. In the balance 6 years and 9 months you can have very easily 4 to 5 years for your intensive studies. But in some cases if we put 15 to 30 years' period, boy students spend 2 years and girl students spend 4 years. If you utilize so much time for studies, then there will be no necessity for you to be in colleges for so many years. Then you will not be a burden to your parents as well as to the administrators for these 4 years.

In your school life, you should not waste even a day. Already the university authorities have given about 200 days to be wasted unnecessarily. The Government have not yet realised that they are ruining the youngsters by allowing 200 days in the year in the name of holidays. In my

opinion there should be no holidays for the students in the year. If at all you need any, the 52 sunday holidays will do for finishing any extra personal pending works. You may say that it is necessary to have more holidays for rest, for recreations and for sports. Nature has provided sufficient time every day for rest and recreation. Everyday you have 12 hours in the night in which 10 hours or 8 hours or 6 hours you can have for sound rest. If you have practised concentration, even four hours' sleep will do. Of course, by any reason if one has got sick, he must have more time or more days to recover from his illness. Why should you then have a mentality to have more holidays? When all of you are not in the sick list, is it not a sin to spend your most valuable time taking so many holidays? Even though you have holidays, you must use them for good work and avoid spending in useless ways.

If you are involved in any of these bad habits, the best time to remove such habits is before you reach 25 years. Any kind of bad habits or weakness cannot be changed or removed after 30 years of age. What you have cultivated in this age – that alone will last until your life time. Therefore, you have to draft the future life plan in this dangerous period i. e. before 25 years or at

the latest before 30 years. The worst time for a student to become weak in mind and body, to become sick or have silly behaviours is between 15 and 25 years of age i. e. after school-final and before graduation. This is the time when politicians also come hunting their prey in this forest. At this time, the innocent plain young generation fall a prey to such hunters. So you have to be very careful at this period.

I know many of you may have the courage to sit and hear for a longer time. But many others may not have. I am very sorry I have taken too much of your time, perhaps giving some unwanted and unsuitable speeches for this occasion. If you want to put any questions, I have no hesitation to answer now itself. But if there are more questions, I have no objection to give replies again tomorrow or on some other occasion according to your wish.

Again I thank you for giving me this opportunity to enjoy this occasion with a complete change from my everyday routine activities.

Welcome Speech
by
Dr. S. KRISHNAMURTHI, M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.
Head of Agriculture Section and Warden.

Respected Vice-Chancellor, Mr. G. D. Naidu and friends,

I feel it indeed a distinct honour to me today to welcome one and all of you to the Hostel Day of the Arts and Science Hostels of this University. Our Vice-Chancellor has been very kind to preside on this occasion and we have been looking forward to a date, when it would be suitable for him to preside as the students are so much attached to our Vice-Chancellor that they cannot consider a day on which the Vice-Chancellor would not be available. We have had no doubt a certain amount of difficulties in fixing the date and since the students would like to concentrate on studies in March, we have tried our best to have the Hostel Day as early as possible. Amidst various activities and many great things in the midst of which our Vice-Chancellor is busy, we are indeed very greateful to him to have spared the time both yesterday and today to preside over these functions which are connected with the Arts and Science Hostels.

About Mr. G. D. Naidu, it is really very superfluous for me to introduce Mr. G. D. Naidu to you since he is known very much all over the country as a great industrial scientist and he is particularly adored and worshipped in the whole of Tamilnad. You must also remember on this occasion that it is very appropriate that we have invited Mr. G. D. Naidu to preside over our Annual Day. Mr. G. D. Naidu himself has got under his charge a number of hostels particularly the hostel which he is managing at Coimbatore. There is therefore a very great appropriateness about his presiding on this occasion. I wish there were some students here who had undergone a period of training under Mr. G. D. Naidu as the Chief Warden of the hostel which he manages. Perhaps there are even now in this assembly some students of the Engineering College, who have undergone some short course in Automobile Engineering or Radio Engineering in Gopal Bagh under the guidance of Mr. G. D. Naidu and perhaps those students have already given you a glimpse of the life in the hostel under Mr. G. D. Naidu. There are certain rules which he has had for these hostels which perhaps it is good for me to tell you at this time. I may say that those rules are so different from the rules which we maintain in these hostels here. For instance,

in his hostels, any head-cook who gains weight by five pounds within one month of his coming there will be summarily dismissed from the hostel; any student who loses five pounds weight during his stay in the hostel will also be evicted from the hostel. He goes by the principle that if the cook has been able to increase his weight so much, he has been eating too much food in the hostel and if the student loses five pounds weight, he goes on the principle that the student is not maintaining his life very properly in the hostel. So, for those two reasons, they should quit the hostel. Then another thing; no student can go to a cinema as long as he stays in the hostel under Mr. G. D. Naidu. If he goes to a cinema, he will be out of the hostel. He is very much against the cinemas and in this his views are in consonance with some of the views which are being held by the Government of India with regard to censorship of the films. Perhaps he is more stringent in films than even the Government of India. And another thing is that when students come under his training and stay in the hostels, they must be available to him at any time of day and night for holding classes. Sometimes, classes are held under Mr. G. D. Naidu's guidance even at about 1 O'clock in the night. Suddenly he may ring up a bell and say

that all the students shall assemble for the class at 12 O'clock in the midnight. So the classes will commence in the midnight and may go on till 6 O'clock in the morning. They cannot complain and they cannot say anything. He goes on the principle that if a student has come to his institution for study, he is supposed to give all his time to it and he should not mind whatever difficulties he undergoes, so as to make a man of him. And much of the time, he spends in telling the students about the conduct, what are the vicious habits and bad habits which are likely to be inculcated in the minds of the students and how they can get rid of them. It is not only the technical line which he undertakes, it is also about their character and conduct and everything. As a matter of fact there are certain amusing incidents which arise on account of some of the rules which he has and I remember one day when I was sitting in his house, a student came along and said "Sir, I want to go out". He said, "Why, for what?". The student said, "Please give only half an hour or one hour, I will go out and come. I want to have a hair-cut. For the last one month you gave me no time to go and have a hair-cut". Mr. Naidu immediately said, "That is very simple, that is very easy, I shall do the hair-cut for you. You sit down". And he

ordered for the razor set for giving a hair-cut and the student waited. Then some visitor came along and he was taken up with him for nearly an hour and the student still waited for his hair-cut. He came to the student. Then some other visitor came along and the student waited for another half an hour or one hour like Casabianca. By that time, I left, and what happened to the student and the hair-cut I don't know! But the principle underlying this is that as far as Mr. G. D. Naidu is concerned one of the things which long ago learnt by precept and practice, years and years ago, probably forty years or fifty years ago in his life was the dignity of labour, about which we to-day are speaking so much now-a-days. It would not have been a surprising thing, if after I left, the student had received a very satisfactory haircut from Mr. G. D. Naidu. He would not think it beneath his dignity to give the student a hair-cut. As a matter of fact I had a very fine experience in the United State, when once I went into a barbershop in the University where I studied. There was a nice young man with a pipe in his mouth asking me very nicely "Sir would you like to have your hair-cut?" I had been used to that barber saloon, but he was a new barber. Looking at the polished ways and the manner in which he was standing,

I understood that he was somebody very new to the barber's saloon. I asked him "Where do you come from?" He said, "I belong right here to the University town. I am a student of the Engineering College. My father is a barber. During the week end I come here and do the barbering work." For what Americans have learnt as part of their philosophy from the point of view of dignity of labour, Mr. G. D. Naidu is a shining example. He tries to inculcate some of these principles into the students who come under his charge.

And then, if in the hostel any resident spits on the floor and throws waste paper on the floor, he must sweep the whole hostel, the whole area of the hostel. The students must not smoke. These are some rules which he has been able to enforce on the students. And it is true I have found by experience that the students try to rebel a bit, because they never expected that these would be the rules under which they will have to stay in the hostel. But by and by I have found an excellent relationship developing between the students and Mr. G. D. Naidu. In other words, he has done something that is really miraculous. He makes the students undergo all the hardships of a hard life under him and makes them so convinced that the ways and

methods which he has used to train them properly will be helpful not only in the technical line which they have undertaken but also in other walks of life.

Another thing is, the visitors who go to his place get a very thorough scientific analysis. He is one who studies people and their psychology. The moment anybody goes to Mr. Naidu, he will receive every hospitality and at the same time he undergoes a searching analysis by Mr. Naidu. He knows every one of his visitors particularly young students. He puts them on a balance, takes their weight, height and examines them. He puts a series of questions and obtain answers from them in writing. Particularly, as far as lady students are concerned, he seems to have studied them so well that by looking at them he would tell what is her academic qualification. That is something wonderful. Looking at a lady student or a lady teacher, he would immediately say "I am quite sure you must have finished at least your Ph. D. degree. If she asks how he know, he would say "Well, by looking at you and looking at your thinness and your weight! By analysing the lady students who come to him, he says that the higher they study, they lose their health more. In other words, he feels that the kind of education

the women are getting these days in one which is not really suitable.

Well, friends, I do not want to say more. You know quite a lot of things, and you have heard quite a lot of things about him. There are many things in his life which here in this short time, I cannot tell you, but I may assure Mr. G. D. Naidu that every one of us has been waiting for his arrival here and for him to give his address on this occasion to the students. I am quite sure that they would benefit by it.

Presidential Address

by

Lt. Col. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai,

Vice-Chancellor.

Mr. Warden, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel a peculiar pleasure to-day; never before I had felt the same pleasure as on this occasion. That arises out of the fact that our guest to-day Mr. G. D. Naidu is one of my very good friends and well-wishers. In this I do not know whether I should consider myself a member of a family different from his. Our association extends for some decades and eversince I came into contact with him, I have found a magnetic power in him and I have been feeling intimately attached to him. I have been a victim of some of his pranks and some of his furies, but nevertheless there is not one to whom I feel attached more than to him. I really feel very glad that such a good and intimate friend of mine is here in this University to deliver the Hostel Day

address. He is a good man, he is a great man, and of course about him as an administrator, your Warden has given you a good picture. I shall perhaps give a picture of other sides of his life. I told you, he is a great man. You may ask in what way? He is one who is a shining example to our youngmen. He is not great because he was born rich. You know that the great Shakespeare has described greatness in three ways. Some are born great, some acquire greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them. He belongs to that middle category of men, who acquire greatness by their ability, by their character and by their public service. I told you, he was not born great in the sense that he had not riches. He started life as a driver, as a motor mechanic and has risen now to a position in which he commands respect and adoration of all the great industrialists. He is not a conventionalist, but he is a man, who has that inherent genius and he is an example of how people who have not gone through the portals of the University can by their own common sense and by their own self tuition rise to the highest even in

a field in which we think academic education is necessary. That is how he is great. He has carved a career for himself by his own efforts, by reason of his own ability and has also sustained them by the heights of his character and public service. But you won't see the greatness in that shirt and in that cloth which he wears. He is the symbol of simplicity. Wherever he may go, even if he gets an audience from the King, it is in the same dress that he will appear. I have seen him in the same dress during these decades I know him. Greatness is combined with such inherent almost original simplicity. He is really considered to be an original genius in his own fields. I am not competent to speak on this, but I must tell you, youngmen, who want to become great, how lives of great men remind us. I want to tell you the certificate or testimony which has come to him from one of the greatest engineers of India. I was present on the occasion, when our late lamented friend Sir Shanmukham Chetty got up a tea party at Coimbatore. It was presided over by our great Sir M. Visveswaraiah of Mysore. There he said to the

audience, "I have known many people, but have not known one who has got the same genius for engineering and mechanism as Mr. G. D. Naidu". This he said with all the warmth of feeling. I am very sorry that our Government have not made use of his genius to the extent which they ought to have done. Now if that testimony will not be sufficient, I don't know what to say? There it is in the bold print to see and emulate. Combined with his greatness, combined with his simplicity, there is in him a passion for service, service to the country and to young men. He is not a believer in the old glory of our country. He, no doubt, knows that our country had a glorious past, but his vision, his passion, his desire won't rest content with that. He always acts in the present – living present, not in the dead past and looks always to the future, and the future he sees lies only in industrial re-generation and in the extent which our young man will equip themselves for fulfilling the task. That is the vision, that is the message, that is the thing, which he has been teaching and it is with that view he has been trying to give bias or

focus to the kind of industrial education we have been having. He has been training students in his own unconventional ways, as your Warden pointed out. He could make one in a miraculously short time an engineer. Therefore, in that view, in that light, he really represents a great ideal, which young men ought to take notice of. There is another side of his life which I won't like you only to copy, but I would like everyone to copy. He is so simple, so affectionate, so kind, so good, so lavish, so hospitable and perhaps at a time when you are in difficulties, no one will rush to your help more than he. But at the same time, with the simplicity and goodness he has a strong will power that can defy mountains, that can defy Governments and that can defy loss. He always gloats and excels in saying that I have defied this and defied that. I am a great enemy of him in that aspect. And often when I see him, I always show my fist and say you must get out of that habit from your mind. But it is impossible. There it is. If he had been only conventional, if he had only been a little more suppliant, surely he would have

amassed wealth and perhaps been at the head of the automobile industry in India. That is the man whom you are seeing. It passes analysis. It is elusive; it is good; it is great in one way; in other aspect it is something elusive which I cannot understand. That is the man you are having. Please benefit by his advice. It will be a great lesson for you.

Thank you very much.

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